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Being a writer who doesn't talk in a writers' room is very dangerous. Mainly because after a while, people forget you're there. —Shonda Rhimes

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CHAPTER RECAP

Working in a writers' room can be incredibly creative and fulfilling, but also intimidating and daunting. Luckily, Shonda provides some tips on making it work for you.

- ▶ If you're not quite sure what to do, be the person who volunteers to write things on the whiteboard.
- ▶ Be ready to go with ideas and comments in every meeting; you want to present yourself as someone with valuable opinions.
- ▶ Don't throw out plot ideas just because they sound exciting. When pitching future plot points, ask yourself, "What is a natural next step for each character?"
- ▶ The writers' room doesn't have to be a cutthroat place. Support your fellow writers, and embrace the oddities of the group that bring everyone together.

TAKE IT FURTHER

There are several resources online that provide glimpses into other television writers' rooms. Look through a few here:

- ▶ [Inside the *Breaking Bad* Writers' Room: How Vince Gilligan Runs the Show](#)
- ▶ [Inside the Writers' Room: Top TV Writers Talk](#)
- ▶ [*Game of Thrones* Writers on the Writers' Room](#)

ASSIGNMENT

- ▶ Simulate a writers' room with your fellow MasterClass students. Set up a Google Hangout, and break a new episode of a TV show already on the air. Throw out plot ideas, debate them, settle on the direction for the new episode, and assign each other scenes or acts to write.

SUBCHAPTERS

- ▶ Have an Original Voice and Opinion
- ▶ Talk and Be Ready With Ideas
- ▶ Your Pitches Should Center Around Character
- ▶ Study All Episode Drafts
- ▶ Support Your Fellow Writers
- ▶ Embrace the Culture of the Room

NOTES
